

REMARKS

This is in response to a telephone interview with the Examiner on February 11, 2008. This is also in response to an Office Action mailed November 28, 2007. Claims 1, and 3-24 were pending in the application, and the Examiner rejected all claims. With this Amendment, claims 1, 9, 12 and 17-19 are amended. Claims 3-7 13-16, 20 and 21 are cancelled. The remaining claims are unchanged.

During the telephonic interview, Applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed the claimed concept of role based determinations in the context of the claimed systems and methods for controlling user access. The amendments made herewith were specifically discussed. The Examiner indicated that these amendments very well may place the case in condition for allowance.

It is also noted that, on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, and 3-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Vora et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,529,379), hereinafter referred to as "Vora." Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. The Examiner cites column 4, lines 15-64, column 5, lines 20-67, column 8, lines 1-67, column 9, lines 1-67 and column 10, lines 1-67 as the basis for rejection of all of the claims in the application. Applicant contends that each independent claim includes elements in addition to the amended in unique role determinations that are neither taught nor suggested by the Vora reference.

For example, independent claim 1 discloses "[a] computer implemented method of configuring organization data related to an organization for access by a user, comprising: obtaining organization structure information that defines a hierarchical structure of connected nodes, each node representing a business unit, each business unit being a part of the organization, the organization structure defining how the business units are related to each other based on how the nodes are connected to one another in the organization structure, obtaining data entity information that defines data entities that represent the business data related to the organization, generating links, separate from the data entities, linking the data entities to the nodes in the organization structure, and controlling whether the user has access to the data entities based on the links." Vora does not teach these elements of this independent claim. The Examiner cites column 4, lines 15-64, column 5, lines 20-67, column 8, lines 1-67, column 9, lines 1-67 and column 10,

lines 1-67 of the Vora reference.

It is clear that Vora does not teach the limitations of independent claim 1. Claim 1 contains the limitation “generating links, separate from the data entities, linking the data entities to the nodes in the organization structure.” Vora discloses a method for maintaining a corporate directory in which the entirety of an employee’s information is contained in one data entry. A new employee’s information is input into a template that contains attribute fields such as address, phone number, or any information the company wishes to include. The Examiner did not indicate what feature of the Vora reference she believed to correspond to a “business unit” within the meaning of the present invention. If the interpretation is that the data entry for the employee corresponds to a “business unit” within the meaning of the present invention, the Vora reference certainly does not anticipate claim 1. Additionally, no other interpretation would warrant a determination that the Vora reference anticipates claim 1. Any data regarding an employee is contained within the same data entry as the employee’s name. Therefore any “data entity” would be the same as the “business unit” in the Vora reference since they are one and the same data entry. There is a direct link between the data and the business unit, not a link separate from the data entities as disclosed in independent claim 1.

The Vora system can also link between two employees if they have a working relationship indicated in their data entry. Within the meaning of the present invention, this would simply be a connection between two nodes (“business units”) of the corporate structure, which is well known in the art. There is no existence of a link that is separate from the data entities within the Vora reference. In this case it is clear that the data is part of the same data entry and therefore, clearly does not teach “generating links, separate from the data entities, linking the data entities to the nodes in the organization structure.”

Furthermore, Vora does not teach “controlling whether the user has access to the data entities based on the links.” Clearly, since there are no separate links formed in the Vora prior art, there can be no control over the access through the use of said links. Additionally, it is indicated in Vora in column 8, lines 39-43, “After appropriate services are provided at Services Provided 235, and possibly in parallel with provision of some services, New Hire 210 starts work at Activation 248, and the data entry associated with New Hire 210 is placed in a group where it is accessible to everyone in the company.”

The placement of the location of the data is what is determinative of who can have access to the employee's information. There is no application of filter links to determine access to data entities as there is in the present case.

Independent claim 12 is directed to a system for relating data, corresponding to an organization, to an organization structure indicative of a structure of the organization. The system includes "an organization structure generator component, configured to generate the organization structure with a plurality of connected nodes, each node representing a business unit, each business unit being part of the organization, a link manager component configured to generate a link between a given business unit of the organization represented by a given node in the organization structure and an entity representative of business data corresponding to the organization by generating the link between the given node and the entity." Vora does not teach these elements of this claim. In accordance with the claim, a link manager component is configured to generate a link between a given business unit of the organization and an entity representative of business data. The Office Action does not explain what is interpreted to correspond to a "business unit" within the Vora reference. If the employee data entry is what is being interpreted as the "business unit", then Vora does not teach the limitations of claim 12. It is indicated in column 5, lines 50-63 that the manager 130, Indirect manager 162, and Admin 132 items all contain references to data entries corresponding to the people in those roles. Then when a change in the organization occurs, the reference to the data entry may be changed rather than the actual name. This is simply linking node to node within the meaning of the present invention. In contrast, in the present invention, when there is an adjustment in position within the business organization, the link management component changes the filters to accommodate the changes in the hierarchical tree structure. There is no need to change any data in the data entities or the business unit nodes themselves. The link manager component abstracts away from the business entities and user entities, their associations with the organizational structure so they can be changed without having to access all of the data records associated with those nodes. The use of a link manager component is entirely absent from the Vora prior art.

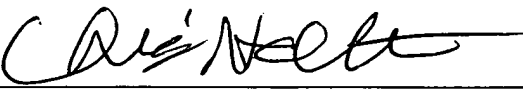
Independent claim 19 recites "[a] data structure for use in filtering access to business data entities representative of business data related to a business organization,

the data structure comprising: tree data, on a computer readable medium, indicative of a tree structure comprised of connected nodes, each node in the tree structure representing a functional business unit of the organization and configured to include filter links, the filter links each identifying a business data entity that is linked to the functional business unit of the organization represented by the node containing the link; and a function to use the tree data to control user access to the business data entities.” Vora does not teach these limitations of this claim. As indicated above, Vora does not employ filter links, much less filter links that identify a business entity that is linked to the functional business unit of the organization. Vora fills out information for a particular employee in a template and that information is simply listed in the data entry for that employee. There is no filter employed between the data entry for the employee (business units) and the data entity (attribute field) as they are one and the same data entry. Vora, in no way, teaches the limitations of independent claim 19. Applicant respectfully contends that claim 19 is neither anticipated or obvious in light of Vora and respectfully submits claim 19 for consideration and allowance.

In conclusion, Applicant submits that at least for all of these reasons, the claims are allowable over the reference cited by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of claims 1, 8-12, 17-19 and 22-24. The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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